

149th Street and Third Avenue, South Bronx, photo: Camilo José Vergere

PUBLICATIONS

REPORTS

REPORTS is a quarterly publication which serves as a forum for experimental works in art and architecture. The goal of REPORTS are: 1, To support theoretical, visionary and iconoclastic works in art and architecture that are independent and critical of traditional academic, professional and commercial purposes. 2. To present new ideas and works that are in the form of research and development within their disciplines. 3. To publish works that extend the role and challange the boundaries of their disciplines. 4. To publish works on issues of culture which bears upon the world of art and architecture.

REPORTS #1

Summer 91, 32pp. \$3 newspaper. Published in July, 1991 TOURISM: suitCase STUDIES: Diller + Scofidio GAZEBOS AND SATELLITE DISHES: Alesteir Gordon CORTEX: Neil Denari GEDENKBIBLIOTHEK PROJECT: Karen Van Lengen A MANTLE OF INVISIBILITY: Dan Hoffman DEVINE RESIDENCE: Dagmar Richter BRIDGES/BISECTION/PRINT; C. Shayne O'Neil SUPER PIER '90-1': Taeg Nishimoto TAPED AUTOMOBILE: Jesse Goode REVIVAL FIELD: Mel Chin SIMULTANEOUS SPACE: Linda Lindroth and Craig Newick PROPOSAL FOR THREE MILE ISLAND HISTORIC NUCLEAR PARK Jay Critchley NOMADIC ARCHITECTURE/TOYO ITO: A book review by Dennis L. Dollens

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MEDIA KAABA PROJECT: Uli Exner (Frankfurt) MEDIA KAABA PROJECT. Werner Gronwald (Frankfurt)

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KRONPRINZENBRUCKE (A bridge between East and West): Peter Wilson (Munster)

TWO ROADS TO NATURE: Kaann Taipale (Helsinki)

IMRE MAKOVECZ AND VISEGRAD CAMP: Tamas Nagy (Budapest)

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PASSANTENVERBLUF (Home for the homeless): Mark Linnemann and Aarle Graafland

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Roottop, South Bronx. (1989) photo: Camilo José Vergare



Doventown Derroit (1001) photo: Cambo José Vergara

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THE NEW AMERICAN GHETTO

November 6 - December 21, 1991 Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm Opening Reception: November 6th, 8-8 pm

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EXHIBITIONS CURRENT



Computer garrieralies serval livers of Most Haven section of South Brishs. By Architecture Computer Facility, Columbia University

THE NEW AMERICAN GHETTO

and documentation of urban decay, compiled over more than a decade, THE NEW AMERICAN GHETTO will be an exhibition of documentation A multi-media exhibition by and analysis of the new ghet-Camilo José Vergara tos. The exhibition at STOREand students from the FRONT for Art and Graduate School of Architecture, Planning Architecture from November and Preservation of 6th through December 21st. will be comprised of a selection Columbia University of Mr. Vergara's photographs. Gonzalo Benavides showing the forms and charac-Vera Bernardi tenstics of urban decay in such Rachel Blakeman cities as Detroit, Chicago, Shelly Brock Newark and New York, as well Minsuk Cho as an analysis of the social and Yousel Habib architectural condition of the Chris Kilbridge Mott Haven section of the lan Kınman South Bronx (home to about Karla Maria Rothstein 12,000 people). This analysis Hyeon Seo will be generated by 13 stu-Stephanie Shapiro Mary Jane Skinner Toru Tsukida

EXHIBITION

Richard Plunz

Provember 6 - December 21. Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm Opening Reception: November 6th, 6-8 pm

STOREFRONT for Art and Architecture 97 Kenmare Street (near Lalayette street). New York, NY 10012

also be an ongoing slide presentation at the Urban. SLIDE PRESENTATION (on going) Center in gallery III of Mr. Vergara's documentation November 1-December 3, 1991 entitled The New American Ghatto; New York. Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 11-5, Saturday Produced by the Municipal Art Society, this 10 minute slide presentation will provide a detailed explanation of what the new ghetto is and how it has developed in New York City. The slides will be The Municipal Art Society's Urban Center accompanied by a sound track, which will provide the public with an overview of the locations that 457 Madison Avenue (51st Street), New York, have been most dramatically affected, including NY 10022 Mott Haven, East New York and Brownsville (the

> For the past two decades, Mott Haven has been the poorest community in New York City, and one of the most drug ridden neighborhoods in the nation. Having been recently selected to receive hundreds of homeless families, its south eastern section is the most developed of New York's new ghettos. Two new large lamily shelters and a large outpatient mental health facilities are located there. along with a string of "medicare mills," two methadone clinics, and a women's shelter that operates on the edge of the neighborhood. In brief, Mott Haven is a prime example of the new American ghetto:

latter two in Brooklyn)

The exhibition is a response to the issues that are being raised by Mr. Vergara's documentation and



View of Charlette Street, South Bronz 1989 photo: Camio José Vergart

dents at The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation of Columbia University, under the supervision of Richard Plunz, in collaboration with Mr. Vergara. Leonard Hicks, a liason for community affair, and Kyong Park, director of STOREFRONT for Art and Architecture. The material, which will include studies of social and environmental issues, will be presented in interviews, photographs, drawings an computer generaled mappings (developed water assetunce of Eden Mult and Chimpon Touris. the Architecture Computer Facility at Columbia University). The exhibition will be a collage of images and text, offering information, as well as an understanding of the structure and life of the

THE NEW AMERICAN GHETTO is a multi-media

exhibition focusing on the emergence of new lunds

of ghettos that are currently taking shape in major

American citie. These new ghettos, which are

formed by both physical destruction and social

fragmentation, are shattering our conventional view

of urban poverty. With conditions that are far more

complex and diverse than housing projects, these

new ghettos are shaped by social phenomena

such as homelessness, drugs, crime, mental ill-

ness and alcoholism, which have come to threaten

the social fabric during the last two decades.

Instituted by short-sighted political decisions, these

new ghettos are physically isolated from the main

frameworks to society and have become pockets of

abandonment and destituion.

Based on the "Ruins and

Revivals Archive" of the phol-

ioumalist Camilo José Vergara,

which includes 8,000 slides

From November 1st to December 3rd, there will

new American ghetto

In 1969, this building on Daily Avenue in the South Bronz was an omate but empty shall. The structure had suffered many fires, which olsowered is faceds and completely destroyed the roof, and its basement once housed a thriving crack den. Recently cleaned, this ruin is scheduled to be rebuilt by the city, photo: Camilo Jose Vergera

the questions coming from communities affected by New York City's ten year housing plan. This housing plan which began in 1986 with a price lag of \$5.1 billion, is by far the most ambilious rebuilding effort of its kind in any American city. In response to the crisis of the homeless and the shortage of affordable housing during the 60's (a period which paradoxically was marked by a real estate boom in office buildings and luxury condominiums). The plan will disdoubledly shape the poorest sections of New York City for decades to come. While the number of housing units being made available and their cost have attracted much attention, there is yet to be a critical examination of its real effects on the communities involved. Are these programs giving new life to these neighborhood, or merely reinforcing the existing ghettos? Are they creating new ghettos? Have we learned from the failures of previous housing projects?

Although the ten-year plan and its related programs will bring somepositive effects lowerd stronger neighborhoods and communities, Mr. Vergara's documentation clearly shows the emergence of new ghettos that institute poverty as a tradition in American way of life. The ten year plan, according to Mr. Vergara, not only fails to provide a workable long-range plan, it intensifies the forces of poverty by throwing people in need into the cores of decay, or injecting disabilities into the communities that are in need of support. Thus, the purpose of the exhibition is to bring to our attention the emergence and the conditions of new ghettos, and to generate critical discourse on social, urban and architectural issues that may ultimately shape the future of our citie.

THE NEW AMERICAN GHETTO is supported by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts. the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation of Columbia University, and friends and supporters of the Municipal Art Society and of STOREFRONT for Art and Architecture.

WORLD CLASS GHETTOS

In the process of rebuilding its poorest neighborhoods, New York City is creating world class ghet-

In 1986 former New York City mayor, Ed Koch. announced an unprecedented \$5.1 billion housing plan to rebuild the city's poorest communities. When completed, this ambitious and much praised plan will add 84,000 new and reconstructed units to the city's housing stock, and renovate 168 000 units. The city also has allocated \$200 million to build shellers for the temporary accommodation of its homeless population and hundreds of millions of dollars to build and operate social service facilities.

In its fateful decision to locate the weakest families in the poorest and most drug-ridden neighborhoods, the city's huge construction program is creating new ghettos. The most intense concentration of destitution and NIMBYs ("not in my backyard") is taking place in sections of the city's two poorest communities: Mott Haven at the southern tip of the South Bronz and Brownsville in north central

ous and drug ridden that families with means are quick to move out. As buildings go up on empty lots and formerly abandoned buildings are rehabilitated, a new type of publicly managed community is emerging. Mott Haven and Brownsville are typical neighborhoods saturated with facilities that are shunned elsewhere and populated with uprooted people shipped into them from the five boroughs. In their semi-institutional character, the uproofedness of their population, their extreme poverty and drug addiction, these government supported communities repre-

Already in the late 1960's these communities epito-

mized the worst kind of urban poverty in the nation.

Mott Haven and Brownsville have the largest con-

centrations of public housing in the city, yet these

public housing projects, so desirable when they

first opened in the 1960s, have become so danger-

The growth of institutionalization in the city reflects the recently completed facilities that form the underpinning of the new ghetlos. In the 1980's the population residing in institutions and in quarters with ten or more unrelated people living together grew by 36% to 168,000 people. New York City's new wave of shelters, the largest in the nation, anchor complex poorhouses, just as large department stores anchor suburban shopping malis. Occupying nearly a city block and built at a cost of between \$13 and \$20 million, they paradoxically signal the weakest neighborhoods.

sent a new form of ghetto.

Residential buildings in these areas are usually wide open, contrasting with surrounding institutions. and commercial facilities. It is common for families to double-up and for people to live on the stairways and roof. Offering a warm place to sleep, these buildings function as unofficial shelters and very often drug franchises. People move back and forth between them and the shelter system.

The new facilities — a variety of homeless shelters. permanent housing for the formerly homeless, jails, drug treatment facilities such as methadone clinics. and live-in treatment centers - are located in neighborhoods where the drug traffic is most intense and where much of the population is marked by the combined experiences of homelessness and drug abuse.

The dense concentration of facilities has conseguences that become evident quicklyt. For example: in Mott Haven, so far the most developed of the new gheltos, three large shelters have brought more than three hundred young women to an area within a three block radius of Jackson Avenue. instantly creating a busy prostitution stretch

The new ghettos are defined by what they lack as: much as by what they possess. In other parts of the city, once as poor and hopeless as these, local community development organizations(CDO's), acting as advocates for their areas, have rebuilt accommissify was ad noighborhoods, pushed not drug dealers, and stopped the city from building large shelters. New ghettos lack effective CDO's.

Even more troublesome, the destitute and transient character of the majority of the residents in the new gheltos leave such urban areas essentially unclaimed, and thus politically powerless. In selecting these communities for the Tromeless industry and NIMBY's, the city condemns them to be noman's-lands, ruled by a distant bureaucracy with IIItie interference from advocates and the press. In remote, ruined and destitute communities, a new publicly created urban form is emerging that further segregates poor, minority people and reinforces human misery.

For those who live in these places, a better life is synonymous with moving out. New ghellos refute the concept that eventually we will all be part of one big middle class. During the past decade, the "war on poverty," whose goal was to uplift the poor, has been redesigned to contain the poor and merely keep them alive.

The recent badly needed fair-share rules of the New York City Planning Commission support a more even distribution of unwanted facilities among. rich and poor sections of the city, yet the new requlations give a false feeling of relief. They are too late to make a real difference, since most of the shunned facilities are completed, under construction, or have already been sited on lots prepared for construction to begin.

It seems certain that law suits on behalf of the homeless will force the city to respond to the crisis by building more facilities, and new ghettos are the only places where additional shelters can quickly be built without violent public protests and additional law suits.

Shelters, prisons and drug treatment facilities will continue to be built. During the last year alone the number of homeless individuals grew by 40%, increasing by almost 4,300 people. Welfare hotels, scheduled for vacancy a year ago, still house nearly eight hundred families, and the population living in the notorious congregate shelters remains unchanged

These large scale poorhouses are too expensive for the city. With its gigantic shelters, busy social service facilities, and run down housing, the city employs thousands of social workers, guards, correctional officers, nurses and doctors at a huge cost. As fiscal pressures increase, budgets that maintain the vast array of governmental facilities in these areas are being subjected to shrinkage and deferral. In the words of a local resident, these facilities would then look like "just another rathole." There are other kinds of costs too: the dependency, illness and delinquency that the new ghettoe



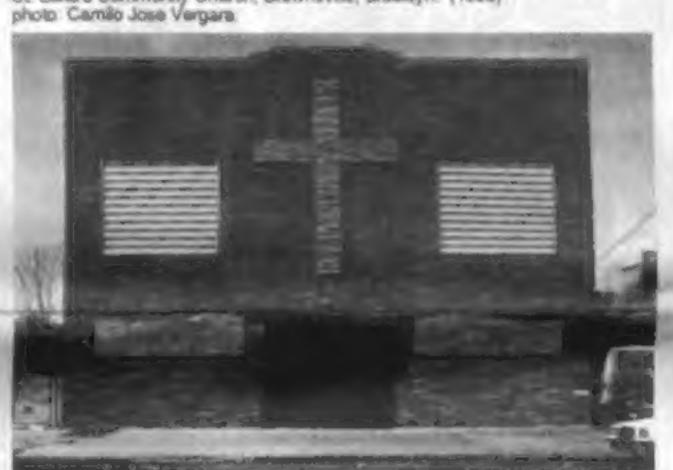
Unmarked methadone treatment center, part of St. Mary's Hospital, resembles an abandoned building, 300 addicts use this facility in a week, Brownsville, Brooklyn (1988), photo: Camillo José Vergare

EXHIBITIONS FUTURE

foster and their obscene waste of human beings. Before we continue adding facilities and people to these nightmarish new ghattos, we need to plan how to dismantie them and begin again.

Camilo José Vergara is a photojournalist completing a book on the new American ghetto in collaboration with historian Kenneth T. Jackson, to be published in 1992 by the Princeton Architectural Press. N.Y.C.

St. Luke's Community Church, Brownsville, Brooklyn. (1990).



WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP. .

Let the New American Ghetto exhibition constitute a warning. As a nation we are creating something new in our cities and we must be resolute in our understanding of its implications. While our national political leadership basks in the glory of the "triumph of capitalism over communism," the harsh realities of our publicly managed minority communities are painfully evident to anyone who dares to look. There is no less a potential for crisis here. than has occurred in Eastern Europe. This exhibition is about waiting for the other shoe to drop. The new society and urbanism is appearing before our eyes. Its origins are complex and wide ranging, but one must point to the national abrogation of responsibility and leadership in grappling with this transformation of our society in the post-industrial and post-capitalist era.

Richard Plunz



ments, some of which are designed for use on Earth while others in outer space, invites a serious look at

Future Systems Jan 21 - Feb 29, 1992

Future Systems, an architectural studio working toward a marriage between technology and nature, can best be described as a laboratory devoted to researching and developing architectonic structures and materials that can

> be used to produce efficient, ecological and aerodynamic habitals. The principle members of Future Systems, Jan Kaplicky and Amanda Levele, with David Nixon in Los Angeles, will mount their first exhibition in New York by presenting a series of recent projects inspired by structures and materials used in shipouilding, aircraft, spacecraft and

how we may be sheltered in the 21st century.

satellites. Their

proposed environ-

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Founded in 1982, STOREFRONT for Art and Architecture is an international forum committed to supporting innovations and experiments in art, architecture and related fields. We serve as a laboratory dedicated to the research, development and advancement of cultural, social and environmental works. Our programs of exhibitions, projects, competitions, symposis and publications develop from a broad range of sources, and generate critical discourse that crosses traditional boundaries of geography, ideology and discipline. These programs are experiments which investigate and participate in evolutions that are taking place in art, erchitecture and our culture at large.

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FUTURE SYSTEM
"BLOB OFFICE BUILDING, A Proposal for redevelopment of the Grand Building site, Trafalgar Square, London, 1989

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